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SOURCE Ching-chi Tao-pao, Vol V, No 243, 1951.PROGRESS IN WATER CONSERVANCY IN KWANGTUNG

Kan Hsin-hai

Progress made in water conservancy in Kwangtung, since the liberation in late 1949, has described in an editorial in the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao of 17 January 1951, and in an article in the Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao of 1 September 1951, as being greater than that achieved by the KMT authorities during more than 20 years of their control in the area.

During the period of KMT government there were 12 major flood disasters in which 30 million mou /one mou equals 1/6 acre/ were inundated and uncomputable damage done to buildings, personal property, and domestic animals.

Even before the fighting ceased in late 1949 the new authorities had taken steps in conservation that saved 500,000 people from flood devastation and restored 900,000 mou to productive condition. From the end of 1949 to the end of June 1952, 20,540,758 cubic meters of earth were moved in various water conservancy projects, 20 submerged locks and sufficient dike locks to protect and irrigate 5 million mou were constructed 2,440,000 square meters of grass sod were laid and 11,900 timbers were used in strategic places.

One large-scale irrigation installation and 17,121 small-scale irrigation projects were carried out; 30 new and renovated pumping stations, capable of irrigating 3,700,000 mou, were put in operation. Dredging and rock facing of stream banks have made possible large reductions in shipping time on certain rivers. Local village irrigation projects in all the 75 hsien and in the Canton municipal area have resulted in greatly exceeded goals. In 8 months of 1951, 2,638 mountain pools, 170 reservoirs, and 11,274 irrigation ditches have been constructed, benefitting 3,636,738 mou. This was double what was done in all of 1950 and four times what was done during the whole period of KMT control. It is estimated that these improvements will make possible an additional annual production of 2,200,000 shih tan /one shih tan equals 110.23 pounds/ of paddy rice.

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The economic value of these improvements is enormous. In one area alone it was estimated that conservancy improvements would make possible an increase of rice production of 10 million shih chin [one shih chin equals 1.1 pound] per year. The crop increase for a single year will be enough to pay for the cost of the improvements in this area. Throughout the province an amount equivalent to the value of 67 million shih chin of rice has been expended.

Electric power developments in the Chu Chiang system already carried out in connection with the flood prevention and irrigation program are producing 1,766,300 kilowatts of electricity and the total potential is estimated at 3 million kilowatts.

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